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EDITORIAL.

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

The year 1911 is the fiftieth anniversary of the breaking out of the Civil War and historical societies and Grand Army posts all over the country are holding special memorial services or in some way observing the anniversary. In Chicago a great meeting was held in the Auditorium under the auspices of the Chicago Daily News, on April 12; in Springfield the Illinois State Historical Society held a special meeting on April 14, an account of which is given in another place in this number of the Journal. The Chicago Daily News began publishing the history of the Civil War on April 1, 1911, giving an account of each day's happenings in the great struggles of fifty years ago. These papers will form a stupendous and circumstantial history of the war.

At Galena, Ill., on April 27th was observed the eighty-ninth anniversary of the birth of Gen. U. S. Grant.

An article in the Chicago Daily News of June 3, 1911, reminds us that on June 5, 1861, Stephen A. Douglas died, fifty years ago, at a time when his services to President Lincoln and the country would have been of inestimable value.

On July fourth at Springfield was celebrated by the Grand Army of the Republic and the citizens generally the fiftieth anniversary of General Grant's march from Camp Yates in command of the 21st regiment of Illinois volunteer infantry.

These observances remind us of the great events which were transpiring a half century ago. The time to record and publish this history is now when there are still some persons living who can furnish us information at first hand. It is the duty of historical societies to do this work.

GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY.

The McLean County Historical Society has presented to the Illinois State Historical Library some numbers of early Bloomington, Illinois, newspapers. These are not complete files, but are scattering numbers of several papers. They consist of the:

Illinois Statesman, 1858-1863; 36 numbers during this period.

The Western Whig, March 17, 1849.

The Weekly Pantagraph, one number in each year, 1854, 1857, 1859, 1860.

McLean County Journal, July 16, 1868.

The Bloomington Democrat, Feb. 9, 1871.

The Appeal, April 8, 1876.

Bloomington Pantagraph, Nov. 23, 1877.

PICTURE OF THE LINCOLN HOME.

Mr. Richard E. Schmidt of Chicago has presented to the Illinois State Historical Library an original photograph of the Lincoln Home at Springfield, taken it is supposed on August 8, 1860, when a large delegation was calling upon Mr. Lincoln. The photograph is about 10 by 14 inches and is framed. It is a valuable addition to the Lincoln collection of the Library and has been hung in the Library room.

LAWS RELATING TO HISTORICAL MATTERS AND INTERESTS PASSED BY THE FORTY- SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ILLINOIS.

The report of the Secretary of the Illinois State Historical Society published in another place in this number of the Journal refers to the more important bills relating to historical subjects which were when the report was presented to the Historical Society, at its annual meeting,

still pending before the Legislature, few if any of them having passed both Houses at that date, May 18, 1911, although the session came to a close on the next day.

The closing hours of the General Assembly decided the fate of many matters of importance to the historical workers of the State. The most considerable appropriation of this nature was the appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the purchase of Starved Rock and adjacent properties.

The House of Representatives passed the bill allowing an appropriation of \$225,000, but the Senate refused to concur and the House concurred in the Senate amendment, which fixed the amount at \$150,000 as above stated. This insures the preservation of one of the most beautiful and truly historic places in the State, which will in time be made into a magnificent State park.

MADISON COUNTY CENTENNIAL.

An appropriation of \$5,000 was made to a commission for the purpose of erecting a monument to Governor Ninian Edwards and as a memorial of the site of old Fort Russell near Edwardsville, Illinois. This old fort was the military headquarters of the territory of Illinois during the frontier wars and the war of 1812.

Next year is also the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of Madison county and also the centennial anniversary of the first territorial legislature of Illinois.

Madison county proposes to celebrate these important historical events and at the same time the monument just mentioned will be dedicated. The president and secretary of the Historical Society are members of the commission for the building of the monument, and thus the Society is intimately connected with the celebration.

SITE OF FORT CHARTRES.

A bill was passed making an appropriation for the purchase of the site of old Fort Chartres in Monroe

county. This is one of the most important historic sites in the State.

Owing to an error in the form of the bill making this appropriation and constituting the board of management should the property become a State park, the Governor was obliged to veto the bill. As this, however, was the reason for the Governor's inability to approve the bill it may be confidently expected that this historic site will be acquired by the State through the action of the next General Assembly.

THE LINCOLN WAY.

One of the most popular measures was the joint resolution directing the Board of Trustees of the Illinois State Historical Library to endeavor to fix the route taken by the family of Abraham Lincoln from the Indiana home to the first Illinois home and on through the New Salem home to the tomb at Springfield.

The state of Kentucky is mapping out the route taken by the Lincoln family from the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln to the Indiana home. It is hoped that the state of Indiana will mark the route through that state and so through the combined labors of these three sovereign states a great highway can be accurately mapped out and marked from the birthplace to the tomb of the Great Emancipator and it is hoped that it may be called the "Lincoln Way," as suggested by Governor Charles S. Deneen in his message to the last session of the Illinois Legislature.

COMMISSION TO PLAN FOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING.

The legislation of greatest interest to the Historical Society, perhaps, is the bill carrying an appropriation of \$5000, and creating a commission to formulate plans, consider sites, and other matters looking toward the erection of a building for the State Department of Education, the Illinois State Historical Library, the Illinois

State Historical Society, the Natural History Museum and perhaps other interests of a like nature.

The commission is to consist of the Governor, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Auditor of Public Accounts, President of the Board of Trustees of the State Historical Library and the President of the Illinois State Historical Society. It is expected that the commission will visit other such state buildings, give hearings to persons interested and do so much of the preliminary work that they can report to the next General Assembly perfected plans for the new building and make strong recommendations as to the best site for it. Too much praise can not be given to Mr. William A. Meese, chairman of the legislative committee of the Historical Society, for his work in securing this appropriation and the creation of the commission.

The commission plan was Mr. Meese's idea and he labored for it long and earnestly.

These are the principal matters of interest to the Historical Society which received attention by the last legislature, most of which have been explained at some length in the report of the Secretary of the Society, published in this number of the Journal.

JERSEY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The great success of the Jersey County Historical Society in its celebration last year of the seventy-first anniversary of the organization of the county has encouraged the society to celebrate this year the seventy-second anniversary. Attractive invitations have been sent out for the occasion, a copy of which is inserted:

Jerseyville, Ill., July 11, 1911.

On August fifth of the present year

Your Jerseyville friends invite you here,
To all the familiar faces greet

As you walk once more down the wide main street.

For the "Old Home Day" calls in all the flock,
 And when it is twelve by the Baptist clock,
 You must bring your lunch to the grassy sward
 'Neath the tall elm trees in the Court House yard.

Various entertainments for the day are planned,
 By those who would like to shake your hand,
 So knowing this, we are sure you will
 Not fail to come back to Jerseyville.

You are cordially invited to attend the 72nd Anniversary Celebration of the organization of Jersey county, August 5th, 1911.

It is desired to make prominent the social and home coming feature on this occasion, and a cordial welcome awaits all who can be present.

The program, as planned, includes a balloon ascension at 10:30 a. m., followed by a band concert. The White Hussar Band of Alton, that gave us such universal satisfaction on August 5th, last year, has been secured for this year.

From 12 to 1:30 the Court House yard will be at the disposal of those present, for group and family picnic dinners.

The afternoon exercises, beginning at 1:30, will include music, and the principal address of the day by Hon. John M. Woodson, of St. Louis, formerly of Greene County, Ill., after which will be drills by Woodmen, Forester Teams, free auto rides for the 39ers and other of the older persons, band concert, etc., etc.

Kindly advise us at your earliest convenience whether or not you can come, and oblige.

Many of the replies to our invitations sent out last year contained items of historic interest, which were much appreciated, and all replies then received are care-

fully preserved in an album for future reference. All replies received this year will be thus preserved.

JOHN W. VINSON,
FANNY H. ENGLISH,
CORNELIA J. SHEPHARD,
Invitation Committee.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SAINT CLAIR COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

At a meeting held in Belleville, Ill., on September 12, 1905, "The Historical Association of St. Clair County, Illinois," was started. Only six members were present. The organization has grown since then and while in the meantime two members have been lost through death and two others have removed from the State, at present twenty-eight members are on the active list. The initial official family chosen (pro tem.) on Sept. 12, 1905, was:

President—Hon. J. Nick Perrin.

Vice President—Dr. E. A. Woelk.

Secretary—Prof. A. M. Wolleson.

Treasurer—Prof. W. A. Hough.

On December 8, 1905, a constitution was adopted and the foregoing were elected as the officers for the ensuing year. They have been re-elected annually without change until this year, when through the suggestion of Secretary Wolleson, Prof. E. W. Plegge was selected in his stead.

At the meeting of December 8, 1905, a committee was appointed "to appear before the county board and encourage its co-operation in the matter of the preservation and retention of the county's historic official records." This committee reported at a meeting on January 12, 1906, and the county board appointed a committee to look after the records. Out of this grew the establishment of our county repository in which the very oldest of our records have been placed for safe keeping and

wherein have also been placed such historic contributions, from time to time, as the liberal inclinations of donors and lenders have seen fit to add to the stock of this, the richest of all historical county storehouses west of the Alleghany Mountains. These records and documents and curios date from 1737 through the French, English, Virginian and United States Territorial occupation of the Northwest. While these records in this collection are in the legal custody of the various county officers to whose respective offices they belong, yet, for the purpose of classification and systematic arrangement, Probate Judge Frank Perrin has cheerfully and gratuitously given his services as Curator since the establishment of this Repository. At a meeting of this association on January 21, 1910, held in the Circuit Court room in Belleville, the county seat of St. Clair county, to which the public was invited and which meeting was largely attended, Judge Perrin delivered an address on "The Early Records of the County."

Besides the foregoing accomplishments, to which the association points with much satisfaction, a number of other things have been done. The association during nearly five years of existence has had ten meetings or an average of two annually. A visit was paid on January 23, 1906, by the membership to the city of East St. Louis to attend a lecture by Gov. Chas. P. Johnson of Missouri (a native of Illinois), on early men of Illinois. Thereby much encouragement was given to the Teachers' Association of East St. Louis to take an interest in Illinois history. On December 3, 1907, a celebration was held in commemoration of the admission of the State. And possibly this might have been followed with another in 1908, but as the Lincoln Celebration of 1909 was so close to this date, all the efforts of the Association were concentrated on the Lincoln event. And it was a great success. All of the various other organizations joined with the Historical Association. The President of the His-

torical Association was selected as the President of the Lincoln celebration. A large opera house was crowded to its capacity for the occasion, on account of the immense outpouring of the people, but as many were necessarily turned away as were admitted. The event would have been a credit to any metropolis in the nation.

At the meeting of January 21, 1910, the following were elected and were the officers for 1910:

President—Hon. J. Nick Perrin.

Vice President—Dr. E. A. Woelk.

Secretary—Prof. E. W. Plegge.

Treasurer—Prof. W. A. Hough.

RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS, CELEBRATED HER
EIGHTIETH CIVIC ANNIVERSARY ON
MAY 10, 1911.

Eighty years ago Rushville voted to incorporate as a town under an act of the General Assembly, which was approved Feb. 12th, 1831, and it is an anniversary date that should not pass unnoticed.

Five years previous to this Rushville had been located as the county seat of Schuyler county by three commissioners appointed by an act of the General Assembly. These commissioners were Levin Green, Benj. Chadsey and Thos. Blair, and they made their report to the county commissioners March 6, 1826.

Previous to this a county seat had been established a mile west of the present village of Pleasantview and named Beardstown, but pioneer residents were not satisfied either with the name or the location, and they sought relief of the Illinois Legislature, which appointed a new commission.

And so it happens that while Rushville can date its history back to Feb. 20, 1826, the day on which the commissioners signed their report, its civic history begins

on May 10, 1831, when the enterprising residents voted to incorporate as a town and establish local self government.

VOTE TO INCORPORATE UNANIMOUS.

The vote to incorporate was unanimous, and in the poll of the first voters we find many names familiar to the present generation, for children and grand children of these early pioneers still continue to make Rushville their home. The twenty voters who were unanimous in favor of incorporation were:

John Scripps	Wm. Putman
Hart Fellows	Proctor P. Newcomb
Wm. C. Ralls	Thos. W. Scott
L. J. C. Smith	E. Grist
Richard Redfield	Joel DeCamp
Andrew Ross	John M. Jones
Wm. Layton	James A. Chadsey
A. E. Quinby	Luke Seeley
Samuel Brazzleton	John Mitcheltree
Samuel Beatie	B. V. Teel

RUSHVILLE IN 1831.

Rushville had been making some pretensions as a village previous to the date of incorporation, for as early as 1828 Hart Fellows had been appointed postmaster, and he had erected the first store building on the public square, the site now occupied by H. M. Dace's building. Benj. Chadsey, Thos. W. Scott and Rev. John Scripps were among the early merchants of Rushville, and in 1831 Hodge & Hunter established a carding mill, the first to be established in the State north of the Illinois river.

In 1834 Rushville was credited with a population of 750 in "Peck's Gazetteer of Illinois," and the following facts given of the town's industries: "Rushville has six stores, two groceries, two taverns, four cabinet makers, four brick masons and plasterers, three carpenters, two

blacksmiths, four tanneries, one carding factory, one steam saw and grist mill, four lawyers and two physicians."

In the revised ordinances of the city of Rushville we note that Rushville was again incorporated March 2, 1839, and March 24, 1869, and the first election held under city organization was May 10, 1898.

Hon. L. D. Erwin is Rushville's oldest city official as well as her oldest resident, as he was president of the town board during the year 1859.

QUINCY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DEDICATES SECOND SERIES OF PANELS CONTAINING NAMES OF PIONEERS.

Sunday, May 14, 1911, will be recorded in the annals of the Historical Society of Quincy, Adams county, Illinois, as the date on which the second series of Memorial Panels on the walls of the Quincy Historical building were dedicated, with an appropriate and deeply impressive program, which began at 3:30 and occupied about an hour. The attendance was such that every seat was occupied and intense interest was apparent.

The Rev. William Stewart delivered the invocation, after which the president, C. F. Perry, made the opening remarks. Mrs. Edward J. Parker, chairman of the Memorial committee, presented an interesting report from that committee. Miss Louise Maertz gave an impressive description of the circumstances under which the late Dr. David Nelson composed the hymn, "The Shining Shore," which was then feelingly sung by Mrs. Reeves. Then Mrs. Alfred S. Ellis, a granddaughter of the late Samuel Hopkins Emery, the founder of the society, delivered the address, which was of rare historic merit. Mrs. Reeves sang the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," the audience joining in the chorus. Mrs. Whipple played the piano accompaniments to the solos.

After the doxology, the audience remained seated, excepting those connected with the names to be unveiled, who passed first into the Memorial room. At a signal, four little girls, two of them granddaughters of the late Rev. S. H. Emery and the other two granddaughters of the late Col. Chauncey H. Castle, unveiled the names inlaid in gold letters on Vermont white marble on the second series of Panels, the dates showing when the citizens arrived here.

The Quincy Historical Society is to be congratulated, not only on its success in this important work, and its beautiful home, but on the great and helpful interest of the citizens of Quincy in the work of the Society.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIED IN KANE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Kane County received at least three veterans of the Continental army and two of them lived a number of years in Campton Township and are buried there.

One of them was Abner Powers who came west with a son and lived near the present village of Lily Lake. He lived eight or ten years in his new home, being almost ninety-five at the time of his death, and retained his mental faculties so well that his stories of the Revolution were impressed indelibly upon the minds of those who heard him.

One grand-daughter, Mrs. Alonzo Caldwell, remembers them well and can speak of him most entertainingly.

Certain Illinois statutes confer upon boards of supervisors of the counties the authority to appropriate money for erecting suitable monuments in honor of the soldier dead. In many cases such memorials have been placed in commanding situations at different county seats.

Some one, in 1901, suggested the appropriateness of a suitable marking of the grave of Mr. Powers. A committee appointed to take charge secured two-hundred

dollars from the supervisors, the Elgin chapter of the D. A. R. gave twenty-five dollars and four hundred and seventy-five more were raised in various ways.

An Elgin firm dealing in granite and marble were descendants of men who were neighbors of the old settlers here, and they generously donated, in work and material, so that the seven hundred dollars placed an imposing monument to mark this grave.

A well proportioned base, die and shaft rise to the height of thirty feet. The inscription reads:

ABNER POWERS

1760—1852

Bennington, Saratoga, Valley
Forge, Yorktown.

July 4th, 1902, about fifty years after the death of this man, an immense crowd gathered at the small country grave yard to witness the dedication of this monument.

A little girl, Gladys Lillibridge, a descendant of the fifth generation, pulled the cord that loosened the great flag with which the shaft was veiled and the monument stood forth in majestic, enduring beauty.

The other soldiers known to be buried in Kane county are William Bennett and Frederick Vaughn.

It has been suggested that the remains of these last two soldiers be removed to the cemetery where Mr. Powers is buried and that their names be also inscribed upon the monument. The United States government will furnish simple markers for the graves of soldiers of the Revolutionary war and the war of 1812 if such graves can be properly identified and the services of the soldiers proven.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIERS BURIED IN SANGAMON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS.

The Springfield Chapters of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution will some time in October, probably the 19th, with appropriate ceremonies, place a bronze tablet in the corridor of the county court house bearing the names of sixteen soldiers of the Revolutionary war who are buried in Sangamon county. It is expected that the State regents of both organizations, the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, will be present and take part in the proceedings. Descendants of these soldiers have been found and have been invited to attend the services. These names and the military records of the soldiers, the residences of their descendants and much other valuable historical information have been secured by the untiring labors of Mrs. E. S. Walker, of the Springfield Chapter D. A. R.

We hope to publish an account of the ceremonies in a future number of the Journal.

A CORRECTION—RECORDS OF SALT CREEK
CHURCH.

In the April number of the Journal of the Historical Society was published the records of the Salt Creek Church, edited by Mr. Milo Custer, of Bloomington. To many of the entries of this record the name of Peter Cartwright appears signed as Presiding Elder. There were also several entries signed by Simon Peter, P. E. (presiding elder). Mr. Custer was under the impression that some one, perhaps Peter Cartwright himself, had facetiously signed the name Simon Peter, meaning Peter Cartwright, and in a note to the record in the Journal Mr. Custer expresses that belief or advances that supposition.

On seeing that statement in the Journal Mr. Thornton G. Capps of Greenfield, one of the members of the Society, wrote to Mr. Custer and to the editor of the Journal saying that there was a well known Methodist preacher in Central Illinois in early days named Simon Peter. Mr. Capps was acquainted with the family of Mr. Peter. One of the sons of Mr. Peter was killed in the Civil war and Mr. Capps assisted in carrying his body from the field. Descendants of Simon Peter are still living in central Illinois and it is hoped that more information in regard to his life and labors may be published in a later number of the Journal of the Historical Society.

DEATH OF MRS. J. O. C. WILSON.

Mrs. Wilson born Jan. 28, 1810 and died July 14, 1911, was over 101 years old and had resided in Macomb since the fall of 1833. She had lived in the same house since 1858.

Mrs. John O'Connor Wilson, whose maiden name was Adeline L. Purdy, was the daughter of Henry and Anna Purdy, being the eleventh child of the family of twenty-three children, all of whom with the parents preceded her in death long ago. Her ancestors were Irish, her grandfather having emigrated to the United States at an early day. The family settled around Lebanon, Kentucky.

Adeline Purdy was married to John O'Connor Wilson on May 28, 1827. Ten children were born to them, only two of whom survive. They are Dr. R. H. Wilson, of Lebanon Junction, Kentucky, and Miss Cornelia Wilson of Macomb. Four of the ten children died in infancy, Charles at the age of one year, the others were Samuel P. Wilson, Elizabeth Clark, and Cincinatus Wilson.

In the year 1833 Mr. and Mrs. Wilson left the "blue grass" state for Illinois. It was in October and the journey to this section was made in a two-horse buggy. The weather was ideal and the journey was made without mishap.

They first settled on a farm four and one-half miles southwest of Macomb, on which they resided for eighteen months, coming then to Macomb to live and spend the rest of their days. Macomb when they first moved here was but a mere hamlet, and the greater part of McDonough county was a wilderness of brush and prairies unsettled. Wild game of all kinds abounded in those days and for many years afterwards until the great rush of civilization crowded the game from the face of the earth, and now it is rare for a nimrod to bag more than a rabbit or squirrel and no more the gobble of wild turkey is heard.

They first began housekeeping in Macomb in a house that stood where the fine new Christian church now stands. Their residence on the farm was a log cabin; chinked with mud and built in the style of a century ago.

They resided on East Jackson street for some time, moving thence to South Lafayette street and in 1858 Mr. Wilson erected the house in which the pioneer woman passed away. The house is in a good condition and at the time it was built it was conceded to be the finest for miles around.

John O. C. Wilson, husband of the subject of this sketch, was a prominent figure in the life of Macomb, during the early days of settlement. He was a leader in political affairs and was honored by being chosen the first mayor the city ever had. In his early life he was a Whig. Later he espoused the cause of the Democratic party. Fraternally he was a prominent member of the A. F. & A. M.

He died in Macomb March 18, 1880.

FINE RELIGIOUS CHARACTER.

Mrs. Wilson was dearly beloved by everyone. She was a fine religious character. She had been affiliated with a church since she was but eighteen years of age, first becoming united with the Presbyterian church in Marion county, Kentucky and shortly after moving here she became a member of the Presbyterian church of Macomb, being one of the oldest members of the local church.

GREAT, GREAT, GRAND CHILDREN.

Besides her two children Mrs. Wilson's demise is mourned by eight grand children, seventeen great grandchildren and two great, great, grandchildren.

GENEALOGICAL BOOKS.

Mr. Milo Custer, of Bloomington, Ill., that indefatigable worker on genealogical and historical subjects, will soon publish a history of the Hinshaw and Henshaw families.

Mr. Custer has for several years past compiled genealogical notes of central Illinois families. These have not been printed, but libraries and interested persons have been able to procure type-written copies.